

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

ACTION PRM-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	CFPP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/001W		

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1020  
INFO AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE  
DARFUR COLLECTIVE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USLO TRIPOLI

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000281

SIPDIS

LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS, GENEVA FOR RMA,  
ADDIS/KAMPALA/NAIROBI FOR REFCOORDS, DEPT FOR PRM AND  
USAID/DCHA/FFP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [KAWC](#) [CD](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: ICRC OPERATIONS IN CHAD

1. Summary. In addition to ICRC's traditional activities in Chad (e.g. detention visits and international humanitarian law dissemination), ICRC is playing a key role in eastern Chad in assisting refugee populations and local communities. ICRC's work with refugees specifically focuses on family message exchanges and tracing services for unaccompanied minors. ICRC is working closely with IFRC and the Chadian Red Cross, as well as with UNHCR. ICRC noted the importance of its presence in eastern Chad to monitor both local tensions and potential spillover from the Darfur conflict. End Summary.

2. PRM/AFR Mary Lange and USAID/DCHA/FFP Suzanne Poland met with Thierry Ribaux, Head of Delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Chad, on February 16 to discuss ICRC operations in Chad and, more specifically, ICRC's activities for Sudanese refugees and affected communities in eastern Chad. ICRC has been operating in Chad since 1977 and currently has an international staff of eleven, with three based in N'Djamena and nine in Abeche. ICRC has four main activities including (1) periodic visits to detention facilities in Chad, (2) dissemination of international humanitarian law in collaboration with the Chadian Red Cross and Chadian military, (3) support for an ICRC-established orthopaedic center now operated by Secadev, and (4) family tracing and messaging services.

3. In eastern Chad, ICRC's primary focus is on family tracing and message exchange between Sudanese refugee camps and villages and IDP centers in Darfur. ICRC has established tracing centers in ten camps (all but AmNabak) and has two to three refugee staff in each center to process tracing requests and messages. PRM/AFR Lange observed first hand the work of ICRC refugee staff in three camps. Since the program became operational, ICRC has collected some 2,600 messages and has identified some 200 unaccompanied minors who may require tracing. Ribaux noted some problems with message exchanges including lack of capacity in Darfur among the Sudanese Red Crescent to find message recipients and deliver messages as well as some reluctance on the part of refugees to initiate messages that may reveal their whereabouts to the Sudanese government or hostile forces.

4. Protection and tracing of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) is also difficult in this setting. For the 200 identified UAMs, ICRC can initiate tracing of families in Darfur but is not supporting family reunification at this time given continued insecurity in Darfur. Most UAMs remain with extended family members in the camps and appear to be receiving adequate care. Ribaux admitted that ICRC did not currently have comprehensive information on the specific protection and assistance needs of this population. UNHCR's Deputy Director for Protection, Marie-Christine Bocoum, noted on February 21 that UNHCR and ICRC would be formalizing a memorandum of understanding on the protection of UAMs and necessary follow-up.

5. ICRC and UNHCR also want to look more closely at the situation of young boys who were given by their families into the care of religious leaders (marabouts). This traditional separation of boys from their families exists in nearly all

the camps and ICRC noted the need for additional information on the numbers of boys involved and the degree to which these boys have access to basic camp services, including primary education.

16. In addition to the above activities, ICRC is also involved in small projects around the Adre area to rehabilitate water systems for some 25,000 to 30,000 local Chadians. Ribaux noted that ICRC's presence in eastern Chad and its small-scale assistance to Chadian populations was an important component of its efforts to monitor the border region and keep abreast of both local tensions and potential spill-over from the Darfur conflict, ICRC maintains a stockpile of some 2,000 non-food items that it can use to respond in the event of more localized conflict. UNHCR would clearly be the primary responder in the event of a larger refugee influx.

17. Ribaux also noted ICRC's close collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent societies (IFRC) as well as the Chadian Red Cross. (The PRM/USAID meeting was, in fact, held at the IFRC compound in Treguine Camp where ICRC maintains a small satellite office.). ICRC and IFRC noted that they held weekly coordination meetings in N'Djamena with the Chadian Red Cross and representative from donor Red Cross societies. Both ICRC and IFRC are also

closely coordinating their activities fo refugees with UNHCR (see septel on IFRC and Chaian Red Cross assistance programs in Treguine cam).

18. Khartoum and Tripoli Minimize Considered  
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